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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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*
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA *
v. * 13-CR-28-01-SM
* September 5, 2014
* 11:58 a.m.
KURT SANBORN *
*
* *

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED BAIL HEARING
BEFORE THE HONORABLE ANDREA K. JOHNSTONE

APPEARANCES:

For the Government: Robert M. Kinsella, AUSA
U.S. Attorney's Office

For the Defendant: Bjorn R. Lange, Esq.
Federal Defender Office

Probation: Sean Buckley

I N D E X

WITNESS: Direct Cross Redirect Recross

KURT SANBORN:

By Mr. Kinsella 12

1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2

3 THE CLERK: The Court has before it for
4 consideration a bail hearing in criminal case 13-CR-28-1-SM,
5 United States of America versus Kurt Sanborn.

6 THE COURT: Attorney Lange, I understand that our
7 hearing today relates to a request that Mr. Sanborn be
8 released on conditions, and I understand that there have been
9 some preliminary conversations and discussions about the
10 possibility of reaching some type of an agreement on proposed
conditions of release.

11 The question that comes to my mind that I would
12 like the government to respond to, and also you to respond to
13 before we go too far down the road, is about the pending
14 matters in Rhode Island. And my understanding is that there
15 either is a hearing scheduled today or there was a hearing
16 scheduled today that might resolve those issues.

17 MR. LANGE: The resolution of the Rhode Island case
18 is pretty much tied to the resolution here.

19 The defendant's family obtained an attorney,
20 William Devereaux. He filed an appearance in the Rhode
21 Island District Court in Warwick, which is where the case is
22 pending, and the defendant has executed a Power of Attorney
23 which authorizes Attorney Devereaux to resolve the case at
24 least up to a final resolution.

25 The local -- the attorney general, myself and the

1 government have all been in extensive discussions. I don't
2 think I've ever had a case where I've spent as much time on a
3 cell phone as I did in this case.

4 Whatever happens in the Rhode Island District
5 Court, the parties agreed up here that there will be a no
6 contact order as a condition of whatever comes out of this
7 court involving my client having no contact with Mary
8 Catherine Wharton, Kelly Wharton, Michael Wharton, Alex
9 Wharton and Barbara Jo Marcotte. These were various people
10 involved in the Rhode Island matter.

11 It's also been agreed that -- except to go down and
12 see Attorney Devereaux in Providence and possibly to see a
13 prospective employer -- the defendant is not to go to Rhode
14 Island at all -- a condition not to go to Rhode Island at
15 all. That may be subject to change. It's going to be
16 subject to change. It will either be because the parties
17 agree to a modification or because (inaudible) requesting a
18 modification.

19 What we're saying right now is that whatever
20 happens in Rhode Island -- and I think Rhode Island may be
21 resolved today because I spoke to Devereaux last night. I
22 got an e-mail from him this morning. He is down in court in
23 Warwick. He told me that he may be able to resolve the
24 matter by telephone today, but, you know, obviously --

25 THE COURT: We can't predict that.

1 MR. LANGE: That's right.

2 THE COURT: What time was that hearing scheduled
3 for?

4 MR. LANGE: It was on for a pretrial at 9:00
5 o'clock this morning, and I told him we had a hearing here at
6 11:30. He was thinking that he would do some kind of a phone
7 resolution. I don't know how they do it in Warwick, but if
8 it's like here there's not going to be a final order, if
9 that's your question. I don't think there's going to be a
10 final order out of the Rhode Island case today unless there's
11 some magic technology.

12 THE COURT: All right.

13 MR. LANGE: But what I'm also telling you is that
14 all matters before the Rhode Island court are essentially
15 being addressed here because these admissions are admissions
16 in terms of having no contact with those people.

17 THE COURT: Attorney Kinsella.

18 MR. KINSELLA: I have spoken to Attorney Devereaux
19 this morning. He has told me that he and Peter Clark, who is
20 the city solicitor and also the prosecutor for the offenses
21 in Rhode Island, had an appointment to be in court at 10:30
22 this morning. They didn't know when the case would be
23 called, but they were scheduled to arrive in court at 10:30.

24 I have not heard from them about what resolution or
25 what procedures are to follow from that appearance today.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Because originally as I started
2 processing and thinking about where we are right now, I
3 thought it might help all of us to have more clarity on
4 whether the Rhode Island matters were finally resolved today
5 or not, and let me just share what my other thinking is.

6 I think it's helpful to have a no contact order,
7 and obviously in this case that would have been what I was
8 looking for if we were going to be considering release on
9 conditions, but I think it would be helpful to know whether
10 that matter in Rhode Island was finally resolved or not.

11 The other thing that would be helpful to me as I
12 consider whether or not release is appropriate, and dealing
13 with the issue of Mr. Sanborn potentially going to Rhode
14 Island at all for any purpose because counsel can come to
15 Massachusetts to consult with his client as well, or to New
16 Hampshire, whatever needs to be done. They can do it by
17 phone. The employment in Rhode Island is something that I
18 would like to have more information on.

19 MR. LANGE: What I would propose today -- the one
20 thing that I'm asking is that he be allowed to go to
21 Providence to get his phone and some of his property that
22 Attorney Devereaux has, and that he be allowed to stop in
23 Cumberland to see a prospective employer, and otherwise he
24 would not be in Rhode Island at all, unless we can convince
25 probation, the government, and ultimately you, that he's got

1 a legitimate reason to be there and until we can satisfy
2 probation that there are secure means to guarantee that he's
3 going to do what he's supposed to do and nothing more and
4 nothing less.

5 THE COURT: Even as to that contact, though -- I
6 mean, picking up personal property, there's got to be another
7 way for us to get that property to Mr. Sanborn.

8 But in terms of giving him an opportunity if
9 there's a job that he needs to go talk to somebody about, I
10 would just like to have probation be given the opportunity to
11 speak to whoever that entity is, or that employer is, before
12 he's even going down to talk to them.

13 MR. LANGE: Yes. I see what you're saying.
14 I'll (inaudible) --

15 THE COURT: So --

16 MR. LANGE: Do you want us to clarify these
17 matters?

18 THE COURT: Yeah. That's what I'm thinking.
19 You've already waited 30 minutes for me to get out here, and
20 I'm very respectful of your time. I also know that Mr.
21 Sanborn is here and is anxious to know what's going to be
22 happening to him.

23 My inclination is that ideally if you all could
24 perhaps try to reach out to Attorney Devereaux. If Mr.
25 Sanborn needs to be part of that through a telephone

1 conference call or something, if it looks like that's going
2 to help to resolve or move the Rhode Island matter along, we
3 will try to accommodate that by -- if we know what time Mr.
4 Sanborn needs to be available later on this afternoon, we'll
5 try to have a conference phone in here so that he can
6 participate by phone, if that's necessary. If not, then we
7 don't need to do that.

8 But ideally what I would really like to know is
9 where are we with Rhode Island, and then based on the
10 conversations we're having today -- I mean, my inclination
11 is -- it doesn't sound like there's a real pressing need for
12 him to be in Rhode Island at all, but maybe you can convince
13 me otherwise, but I do want to give probation the opportunity
14 to speak to whoever this prospective employer is in Rhode
15 Island before I will even consider allowing him to go to
16 Cumberland, Rhode Island, for that purpose.

17 MR. LANGE: We'll follow up on that.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. I appreciate it very
19 much. Thank you for your patience.

20 Thank you, Mr. Sanborn.

21 MR. LANGE: So we're in recess for the time being?

22 THE COURT: Very good. We will recess, and I'll
23 wait to hear back from you.

24 Let Ms. Sackos know, and we'll try to schedule this
25 for later on today. I'm going to be here all day, so we can

1 do this as late in the afternoon as we need to. Thank you.

2 (RECESS)

3 THE CLERK: Court is back in session in the matter
4 of the United States of America versus Kurt Sanborn,
5 13-CR-28-01-SM.

6 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

7 MR. KINSELLA: Good afternoon, Judge.

8 THE COURT: Okay. We had a call that was off the
9 record earlier today with Attorney Devereaux down in Rhode
10 Island, and I understand that there are some developments
11 that have happened since we had that call.

12 I don't care which one of you starts, whichever one
13 wants to.

14 MR. KINSELLA: Okay.

15 THE COURT: I would like to hear about that call
16 and also, first, what the government's thinking is on the
17 pending motion, and then we can proceed from there.

18 MR. KINSELLA: Thank you, Judge, and thank you for
19 seeing us again this afternoon.

20 After we met in chambers, Attorney Lange and
21 Probation Officer Buckley and I called Attorney Devereaux
22 again to ask him questions regarding the availability of the
23 defendant participating in a court hearing related to Rhode
24 Island matters by video conference.

25 Attorney Devereaux related to us that he wasn't

1 sure whether or not the District Court in Rhode Island had
2 the capability of conducting that type of hearing. And even
3 if the district court did have that capability, Attorney
4 Devereaux was not able to assure us that the judge in that
5 case would be willing to proceed on that basis given the fact
6 that there's going to be very stringent conditions placed on
7 the defendant with regard to his contact with individuals in
8 Rhode Island, and Attorney Devereaux believed the judge would
9 prefer for the defendant to be present so that the judge
10 could assure himself or herself that the defendant fully
11 understood the consequences of him pleading guilty to the
12 offenses in Rhode Island and what consequences might follow
13 in the event that he violated a no contact order.

14 Further, if there was no video conferencing
15 capabilities available to the judge, we are unsure as to
16 whether or not that judge would agree to go to a different
17 location, the judge's availability and also the prosecutor's.
18 There's a lot of moving parts.

19 So based on that we agreed to proceed based upon
20 some conditions that I would like to present to the Court.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 MR. KINSELLA: So, Judge, if I could just begin.
23 Attorney Lange and I spent a considerable amount of time over
24 the last couple of days negotiating the terms of conditions
25 that we believe will assure that the defendant will appear in

1 court and will not pose a danger to anyone in the community,
2 specifically Ms. Wharton and her family, and also Bobbie Jo
3 Marcotte.

4 And as part of that, the defendant has agreed to
5 make certain admissions today in court regarding a no contact
6 order that was issued by a Rhode Island state court judge on
7 May 29 of 2014, and a no trespass order that was issued by a
8 local police department in Rhode Island on May 20, 2014.

9 And so, with your permission, I would like to
10 proceed with regard to those conditions right now by asking
11 the defendant some questions, if it's okay with you.

12 THE COURT: Okay. That's fine. I just want folks
13 to make sure that they understand, if that's the way that you
14 want to proceed, that I haven't made a decision as to whether
15 or not the conditions that you're proposing are going to be
16 acceptable to the Court.

17 MR. KINSELLA: Understood.

18 THE COURT: And so I want to just make sure that
19 both parties understand that that's still where I am, because
20 I don't want Mr. Sanborn to be making admissions on the
21 record here with the expectation that by doing so he is going
22 to have the conditions that are under consideration approved.

23 MR. LANGE: We accept there is no quid pro quo. We
24 understand that.

25 THE COURT: Okay.

MR. KINSELLA: Okay. Thank you very much.

So, Mr. Sanborn, I just have a couple questions for you.

THE COURT: We need to swear the defendant.

MR. KINSELLA: Oh, I'm sorry.

THE COURT: Thank you.

KURT SANBORN

having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

MR. KINSELLA: Thanks, Judge.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. KINSELLA:

Q. Mr. Sanborn, I would like you to state whether or not you agree or disagree with the following statements, okay?

On May 20, 2014, Cathy Wharton obtained from the East Greenwich Police Department an order that was served upon you that directed you not to be on her property at any time after that date. Is that true?

A. That was the date it was issued. That's not the date I was told that.

Q. You have to speak up.

A. That was the date it was issued. That's not the date that I was told that.

Q. Not the date that you what?

A. I was told that.

1 Q. Okay. Did you receive a directive from the East
2 Greenwich Police Department not to go to Cathy Wharton's
3 residence and go onto her property?

4 A. I had a phone call from a police officer; yes, sir.

5 Q. Okay. And after you received that directive from
6 the police department, did you go on her property in
7 violation of that order on May 23, 2014?

8 A. Yes. I went and gave her dog a collar.

9 Q. Okay. In violation of that order, a no trespass
10 order, did you also go on her property on May 26, 2014?

11 A. I believe on that date, sir, that I wasn't in the
12 town.

13 Q. Okay. On that date did you go to her home, ring
14 her doorbell, and then walk away from her home and then get
15 into your car and drive away?

16 A. Let's see, the 26th?

17 MR. LANGE: You're not certain of the date?

18 THE DEFENDANT: No, I'm not certain.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. No. Don't agree with me just because you want to
21 be released. On a date after May 20, 2014 -- at some day
22 after May 20, 2014, did you return to Ms. Wharton's home on
23 her property, ring her doorbell, walk away, get in your car
24 and drive away?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. In addition, on May 29, 2014, a state court
2 judge in Rhode Island issued an order directing you to have
3 no contact with Ms. Wharton; is that correct?

4 A. A temporary restraining order, yes.

5 Q. Yes. And did you receive a copy of that order?

6 A. I did.

7 Q. And did you understand that you would have no
8 contact with Ms. Wharton once you received that order?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. And despite that, on June 4, 2014, did you
11 go to Ms. Wharton's place of employment?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And did you follow her to her residence or her
14 neighborhood on that day in your car following her car?

15 A. I didn't actually follow her car, but I was in her
16 neighborhood, yes, and I turned around in her neighborhood.

17 Q. Did you wait for her to leave her employment?

18 A. Yes, because I didn't want any contact. That's
19 true, yes.

20 Q. And did you wait for her to get into her car on
21 that day?

22 A. I didn't see her get into her car. I saw her down
23 the street.

24 Q. Were you in the parking lot of her place of
25 employment?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did you see her leave her place of employment and
3 get into her car?

4 A. I didn't see her get into her car, but I saw her
5 leave the parking lot, yes.

6 Q. And did you purposely follow her car towards her
7 residence?

8 A. I didn't purposely follow her car, but I did go to
9 her residence, yes.

10 Q. Why did you go to her residence?

11 A. Because I was told that my lawn tractor was in the
12 driveway, and I was just going to see if it was there, and I
13 turned right into a driveway up the street and turned and I
14 left into her neighborhood. I did do that, yes. The report
15 says that, too.

16 Q. Excuse me?

17 A. The police report says it that way, too. I turned
18 around in her neighborhood. I didn't go to her house,
19 though.

20 Q. You stopped before her house?

21 A. Yes, and turned around in the driveway of the first
22 house on the right and left.

23 Q. And you followed her near her house for the purpose
24 of what?

25 A. Because I have a John Deere lawn tractor there. I

1 have a John Deere lawn tractor there, and I was told that it
2 was in the driveway. I wanted to see if it was in the
3 driveway and not secured.

4 Q. On that day when you stopped by the local police
5 department --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- did you have in your car documents that belonged
8 to Ms. Wharton that you were not entitled to have possession
9 of?

10 A. I had -- yes. I had documents that were from her,
11 yes.

12 Q. Excuse me?

13 A. Yes, I did have documents.

14 MR. KINSELLA: Okay. Judge, that's sufficient for
15 me now.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 MR. LANGE: I have nothing to add in terms of
18 questioning the defendant.

19 MR. KINSELLA: It was my expectation, Judge, that
20 Mr. Sanborn was prepared today during this hearing to admit
21 in unequivocal terms that he violated the terms of the no
22 contact order that was issued on May 29, 2014, and that's an
23 important part -- an important reason why the government had
24 agreed to propose certain conditions for him to be released,
25 because it's important for us to know that he understands the

1 significance of the order and his responsibility to abide by
2 it, which also relates specifically and directly to any
3 orders he receives in this court to follow those orders.

4 His answers to those questions today are in my view
5 ambiguous, and based upon that -- unless he chooses to
6 restate his position, I would seek a continuance so that I
7 can bring witnesses here to present testimony regarding his
8 activities involving Ms. Wharton and her family after that
9 order of protection would have been issued.

10 THE COURT: Yeah, I'll tell you that based on the
11 responses that we received today I'm really not interested in
12 having Mr. Sanborn recast those so that they may or may not
13 appeal to the government in a different way.

14 He, I think, appreciated the questions. He
15 expected and anticipated what the questions were that you
16 were going to ask him. We spent a lot of time today getting
17 ready for this. And as you both have represented to me,
18 you've been working very hard over the last week or so trying
19 to put this case into a position so that Mr. Sanborn could
20 appear in Rhode Island and take care of the legal matter
21 that's before him pending there.

22 My understanding is that all of those matters were
23 intended to come up to New Hampshire and that this was
24 perhaps an accommodation to Mr. Sanborn and an opportunity to
25 perhaps look at this case in a different way.

1 I am not comfortable approving conditions of
2 release based on the responses that you received today, and I
3 am not comfortable in giving Mr. Sanborn a second chance to
4 answer those questions differently.

5 MR. LANGE: Your Honor --

6 THE COURT: I'm happy to have this matter
7 continued, if that's necessary.

8 MR. LANGE: Your Honor --

9 THE COURT: Attorney Lange.

10 MR. LANGE: The defendant was prepared to admit his
11 responsibility for the misdemeanors. He's indicated through
12 Attorney Devereaux he's going to be pleading guilty down
13 there next Friday, and he did not know that we were going to
14 have colloquy, but he understood that he had to admit his
15 liability, and I think he did admit that he did follow Cathy
16 Wharton after he saw her leave her place of work and that was
17 a violation of the order.

18 I don't think he evaded responsibility. I don't
19 think he's been evasive or ambiguous.

20 THE DEFENDANT: May I, your Honor?

21 I didn't anticipate this, and I'm a little nervous,
22 but I can tell you wholeheartedly I admit to doing this. I
23 admit to it wholeheartedly.

24 Your Honor, I had a six-and-a-half year
25 relationship with this woman and I cared about her and her

1 family very much, and it's over. I deal with that now and I
2 admit to it, and I would like to try to adhere to this and
3 move on and do my best, and I will. I will be successful in
4 that.

5 THE COURT: I appreciate that. Unfortunately, your
6 responses and the explanations that you provided for your
7 failure to comply with the orders that were presented to you
8 don't give me any confidence that you're going to adhere to
9 the terms and conditions of the supervised release as they
10 were presented to me today.

11 THE DEFENDANT: If I may, your Honor.

12 Again, I wasn't in any way, shape or form prepared
13 for any of this today, and I would normally -- that's why I'm
14 hesitant, because my attorneys are here.

15 I have already stated that I'm prepared to agree to
16 all the terms in the letter. And I will tell you, to the
17 best of my ability as I stand here, you're looking at a man
18 that will not -- has no intention of going to Rhode Island or
19 doing anything again.

20 I frankly owe it to my family to fix this and to
21 restart. And the fact that I'm given an opportunity to go
22 and stay with my mother and have some of those natural
23 supports again in my life -- my family is all right there
24 within a mile of the house -- it's going to be a huge help to
25 me, in addition to the other pieces that the government is

1 willing to do for me.

2 THE COURT: Well, what I'm going to recommend is
3 that if the -- if Attorney Lange and Attorney Kinsella want
4 to continue to have conversations, we have until Friday of
5 next week, which is when the hearing is scheduled, and I am
6 open to continuing the discussion.

7 But for the purpose of today, based on what I've
8 heard, I'm not prepared to agree to conditions of release.
9 Thank you.

10 (Conclusion of hearing at 3:35 p.m.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E
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I, Susan M. Bateman, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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7
8 Submitted: 10-17-14


SUSAN M. BATEMAN, LCR, RPR, CRR
LICENSED COURT REPORTER, NO. 34
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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